WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A can end, comprising:

an end panel;

a score line defined in said end panel, said score line defining a first removable portion of said end panel and a second nonremovable portion of said end panel;

means for initiating separation of said first removable portion from said second nonremovable portion at a first location along said score line, said first location being located along an axis of symmetry about which separation of said first removable portion from said second nonremovable portion during opening will progress substantially symmetrically; and

wherein said score line is shaped so that said second nonremovable portion defines a spoon leveling shelf that is shaped and sized to permit a consumer to level a spoonful of nonliquid material, and wherein at least one exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf is afforded cut protection by a safety fold.

2. A can end according to claim 1,wherein said means for initiating separation of said first removable portion from said second nonremovable portion comprises a tab member.

3. A can end according to claim 1,wherein said exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf is substantially perpendicular to said axis of symmetry.

4. A can end according to claim 1, wherein said exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf extends linearly.

5. A can end according to claim 1,wherein said spoon leveling shelf has a length measured along said axis of symmetry that is substantially within the range of about 15 percent to about 40 percent of the diameter of said end panel.

6. A can end according to claim 5,wherein said spoon leveling shelf has a length measured along said axis of symmetry that is substantially within the range of about 25 percent to about 35 percent of the diameter of said end panel.

7. A can end according to claim 6,wherein said spoon leveling shelf has a length measured along said axis of symmetry that is substantially within the range of about 20 percent to about 30 percent of the diameter of said end panel.

8. A can end according to claim 4, wherein said exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf extends linearly for a distance that is no less than a length of said spoon leveling shelf that is measured along said axis of symmetry.

9. A can end according to claim 1, wherein said safety fold projects beneath said exposed edge of said smooth leveling shelf, whereby said safety fold may be used by the consumer to level a spoonful of nonliquid material.

10. A can end according to claim 9,further comprising a ramped transition portion connecting said safety fold to said spoon leveling shelf, and wherein said ramped transition portion is sloped so that nonliquid material being removed from a spoon will be guided by said ramped transition portion as a consumer withdraws the spoon.

11. A container assembly for packaging nonliquid material, comprising:

a can body;

an end panel secured to said can body;

a score line defined in said end panel, said score line defining a first removable portion of said end panel and a second nonremovable portion of said end panel;

means for initiating separation of said first removable portion from said second nonremovable portion at a first location along said score line, said first location being located along an axis of symmetry about which separation of said first removable portion from said second nonremovable portion during opening will progress substantially symmetrically; and

wherein said score line is shaped so that said second nonremovable portion defines a spoon leveling shelf that is shaped and sized to permit a consumer to level a spoonful of nonliquid material, and wherein at least one exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf is afforded cut protection by a safety fold.

12. A container assembly according to claim 11,wherein said means for initiating separation of said first removable portion from said second nonremovable portion comprises a tab member.

13. A container assembly according to claim 11, wherein said exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf is substantially perpendicular to said axis of symmetry.

14. A container assembly according to claim 11, wherein said exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf extends linearly.

15. A container assembly according to claim 11, wherein said spoon leveling shelf has a length measured along said axis of symmetry that is substantially within the range of about 15 percent to about 40 percent of the diameter of said end panel.

16. A container assembly according to claim 15,wherein said spoon leveling shelf has a length measured along said axis of symmetry that is substantially within the range of about 25 percent to about 35 percent of the diameter of said end panel.

17. A container assembly according to claim 16, wherein said spoon leveling shelf has a length measured along said axis of symmetry that is substantially within the range of about 20 percent to about 30 percent of the diameter of said end panel.

18. A container assembly according to claim 14, wherein said exposed edge of said spoon leveling shelf extends linearly for a distance that is no less than a length of said spoon leveling shelf that is measured along said axis of symmetry.

19. A container assembly according to claim 11, wherein said safety fold projects beneath said exposed edge of said smooth leveling shelf, whereby said safety fold may be used by the consumer to level a spoonful of nonliquid material.

20. A container assembly according to claim 19,further comprising a ramped transition portion connecting said safety fold to said spoon leveling shelf, and wherein said ramped transition portion is sloped so that nonliquid material being removed from a spoon will be guided by said ramped transition portion as a consumer withdraws the spoon.